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LETTER DATED 26 FEBRUARY 1996 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE SUDAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

With reference to the letter of the Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations dated 12 February 1996 (see S/1996/106), I have the honour to transmit the statement of the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 14 February 1996 in response to the Ethiopian statement.

I would be grateful if this letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hamid Ali ELTINAY
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

Statement of 14 February 1996 by the spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Sudan

Commenting on the press statement issued by the Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 12 February 1996, which relates to the earnest and sincere efforts the Sudan is making to find the three Egyptian suspects in the attempted assassination of the President of Egypt, a spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated as follows:

1. Since Ethiopia assumed the tasks entrusted to it in the current campaign against the Sudan, it has been the practice of its regime to avail itself of every opportunity to demonstrate its ability to blur and distort the facts, and this constantly reveals the true purposes and objectives of a campaign based on falsehoods and having a predetermined outcome.

2. The Ethiopian regime can falsify the will of its people, but it can never, ever, delude the international community with a wisdom that it does not have and commit a crime and constantly attempt to ascribe it to others.

3. Since the Addis Ababa incident, Ethiopia's conduct has not ceased to be characterized by immaturity and irresponsibility, by haste in issuing judgements and by a premeditated desire to incriminate the Sudan at whatever cost to itself, regardless of how weak its grounds may be or how attenuated its logic. Its actions have included the following:

(a) On 11 September 1995, Ethiopia took its campaign against the Sudan to the Organization of African Unity Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, thereby exploiting its OAU chairmanship in order to issue judgements in the Sudan's absence and violating OAU principles and rules and the provisions of the Declaration of the Organization's leaders on conflict resolution in Africa.

(b) On 14 September 1995, even before the Sudan was informed of the decision taken by the Central Organ of the OAU Mechanism, Ethiopia addressed the Security Council on the issue. This shows its contrived and malicious intentions.

(c) In its statement of 19 December 1995, the Central Organ urged the Sudan to take the necessary measures to look for, locate and extradite the suspects and to address the issue within the OAU framework. Ethiopia, however, with its customary haste, approached the Security Council only two days after the 19 December meeting, that is to say on 21 December, when its Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs addressed the Council before the ink on the Central Organ's statement on the same issue had even dried.

4. The Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has issued this press statement while the Sudan is making immense efforts to comply with the 19 December 1995 decision of the Central Organ urging it to take the necessary measures to find the suspects and at a time that coincides with the visit of the OAU delegation to Khartoum. This is another indication of its frenzied endeavour to incriminate the Sudan at whatever cost and of its lack of logic and sound judgement.

5. The procedures of the law are perhaps unknown to the Addis Ababa regime, particularly since it accords them no weight at home or abroad. The Sudan, however, decidedly does not find it acceptable that the Addis Ababa regime should persist in its naked plot against the Sudan and its people.

6. The serious and rigorous measures taken by the Sudan to find the suspects - measures whose credibility has alarmed the Addis Ababa regime - basically derive from the Sudan's firm commitment to the principles of justice and its equally firm commitment to OAU decisions on issues such as this, and they are in no way a concession to the strong desire of the Addis Ababa regime to incriminate the Sudan.